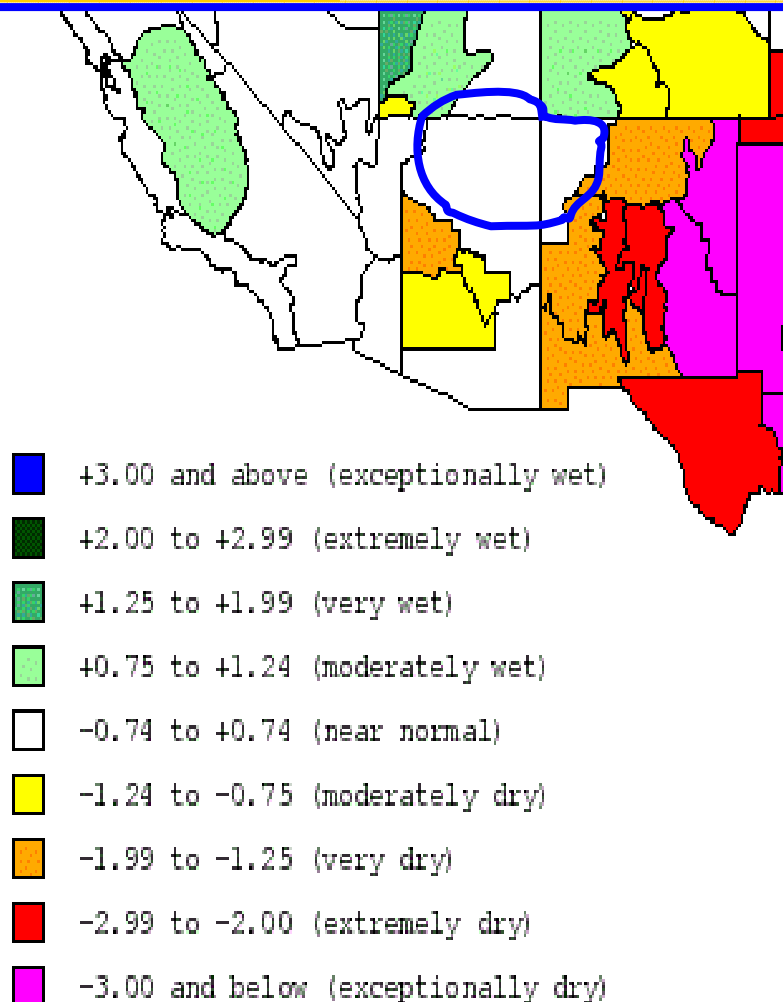




Navajo Nation DWR – Water Management Branch

DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

P.O. Drawer 678 Fort Defiance, Arizona 86504 Ph.(928) 729-4004, Fax.(928) 729-4126



Navajo Nation Drought Stage

Location	6 month SPI		Stage as of Sept.
	August	Sept.	
NE AZ	-1.39	-0.27	Alert
NW NM	-0.62	0.66	Normal
SE UT	0.29	0.67	Normal

Drought Intensity Category

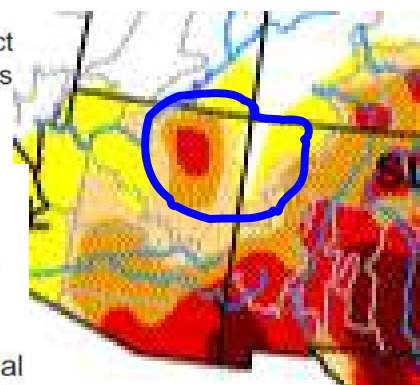
NNDrought	US Drought	
Normal	Normal	D0
Alert	Moderate	D1
Warning	Severe	D2
Emergency	Extreme-Exceptional	D3 & D4

Drought Impact Types:

~ Delineates dominant impact
 A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
 H = Hydrological (water)

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional



6-Month SPI for Sept 2011 www.wrcc.dri.edu

October 11, 2011 U.S. Drought Monitor <http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

Drought Summary by NDMC October 11, 2011

Rockies and Southwest: Some improvements were made across Colorado and northern New Mexico to reflect recent rains (SPI-3 values near or above 0 and weekly rainfall totals ranging from 0.5 -2.5 inches). Across the San Luis Valley, many areas in D3 (extreme drought) as of last week, received over 2 inches of rain in the past week. Although top soil moisture in the area is showing near normal conditions, longer term SPIs still depict D2, thus severe drought remained in the region.

Across northern New Mexico, improvements were made to reflect short-term wet conditions. Rainfall totals ranging from 0.9 inch to 2.5 inches were reported for the week. The bulk of the rains fell across Rio Arriba and Taos counties, so that is where the most improvements were made. Longer term indicators (SPI6, SPI9, and soil moisture) all indicate that the recent rains have not overcome longer term deficits.

September 2011

Southwest Drought at Glance

Climate Summary by Climas September 21, 2011

Drought— Monsoon precipitation during the past 30 days provided some drought relief to parts of New Mexico and Arizona, but overall moderate drought or a more severe category persists across most of the region and even expanded and intensified across parts of Arizona.

Temperature—Record warmth, continues across the Southwest. Temperatures have been 2–4 degrees F above average throughout most of the region.

Precipitation— The monsoon ramped up in mid-September, delivering copious rain to many parts of the Southwest; the monsoon as a whole, however, has delivered below-average precipitation.

ENSO— La Niña is back and is expected to deliver below-average precipitation to much of Arizona and New Mexico through the upcoming fall and winter seasons.

Climate Forecasts—Seasonal climate outlooks call for above-average temperatures through the new year, while below-average rainfall is forecasted for this winter.

The Bottom Line—The monsoon is nearly over and extreme and exceptional drought conditions remain ensconced in the region, particularly in the southeastern corners of Arizona and New Mexico. Widespread and intense monsoon storms flared up for a week in mid-September, but the total amount of rainfall since June 15 has been slightly below average for most of the region. Scant rain in some parts of the Southwest in conjunction with region-wide, warmer-than-average temperatures caused drought to expand and intensify in Arizona. The Southwest likely will continue to experience drier-than-average conditions because a La Niña event officially has returned. There is uncertainty about how long and how strong this La Niña will be, but forecasts suggest at least a weak event will persist through the winter.

Useful Drought Related Sites:

NWS-Climate
Prediction Center
Seasonal Outlook
www.drought.unl.edu

USGS Daily
Stream Flow
www.usgs.gov/water/

NDMC Drought Impact
Database Webpage
<http://droughtreporter.unl.edu>

Western Regional
Climate Center
www.wrcc.dri.edu

CLIMAS Southwest
Climate Outlook
www.climas.arizona.edu

Navajo Nation Drought Summary

Navajo Nation Water Management Branch has a network of 135 precipitation cans across the Navajo Nation. On a monthly basis, these cans are checked manually for precipitation depths. The 6-month SPI is calculated on the basis of 18 years of precipitation data. The SPI value for a particular agency is the average of SPI values of all precipitation collection sites located within the agency boundary.

6 month SPI

Agency	August	September	Stage as of Sept
Chinle	0.01	0.30	Normal
Eastern	-0.58	0.12	Normal
Fort Defiance	0.14	0.61	Normal
Shiprock	-0.17	0.31	Normal
Western	-0.57	-0.07	Alert

